



# NEWSLETTER

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**



## A SALUTE TO ALL OUR NURSING STAFF AT MJFSVH

May 8-14 is National Skilled Nursing Care Week. It's our opportunity to thank all of our nursing team members and recognize the essential role they play in taking care of our veterans.

This week affords us the chance to shine the spotlight on our unseen heroes who are taking care of our veterans throughout this state, but especially our nursing team at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

This past couple of years has tested our tenacity, but we all stayed true to our vision,

mission, and goals and maintained our commitment to serving our veterans and their families.

In addition to protecting and caring for their residents around

the clock during a time of limited visitation and social distancing, our staff stepped in and served as family, friends, and entertainers to ensure that the residents had the essential social connections they needed.

To all our nurses and nursing staff that serve on the front-line, thank you for your commitment, dedication, kindness, your hours of hard work, and your healing touch.

We are forever thankful for your unselfishness.



Raid 22.....	2
New Command at 82nd CST .....	3
VSO Outreach .....	4
Bull Bash .....	5
Happy Mothers Day .....	5
MWHF Fundraiser .....	6
Military Spouse Appreciation .....	6
MJFSVH Employee of the Month.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	7-8

# RAID ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

## 2022

The 2022 Ellsworth Air & Space Show will be May 14 & 15. Leading up to the event, South Dakotans in seven locations will have a chance to see a piece of aviation history. The Black Hills Military Advisory Coalition is hosting a tour called “RAID’22,” named as a homage to the two South Dakotans who took part in the famous “Doolittle Raid” of 1942 and Ellsworth Air Force Bases’ military lineage connected to the Doolittle Raiders. The RAID’22 will fly into the airports of Sioux Falls, Brookings, Aberdeen, Chamberlain, Pierre, Rosebud, and Rapid City on May 10 through 13.

Ellsworth AFB is Home of the Raiders. Three of the four Doolittle squadrons call Ellsworth home – the 34th Bomb Squadron, 37th Bomb Squadron, and the 89th Attack Squadron. The legacy of heroism, innovation, and commitment to duty lives in every Airmen serving at Ellsworth.

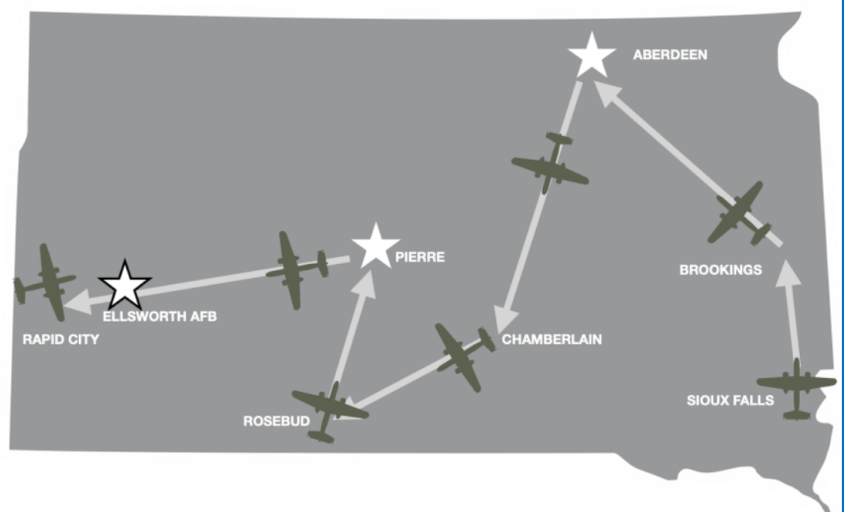
Join them as they celebrate the Doolittle Heritage across South Dakota and highlight some amazing South Dakotan’s who have left their mark on military aviation history.

Each RAID stop will offer an exciting opportunity to see a B-25 Mitchell up close while also learning about some amazing South Dakotan's who have left a legacy of excellence and bravery in military aviation history. They are partnering with local officials, organizations, and schools at each stop to celebrate South Dakota's impact to national security; past, present, and into the future.

Here are the scheduled stops — check on their website as they will be updating times and details as they are firmed up ([RAID’22 \(ellsworthairshow.com\)](https://raid22.ellsworthairshow.com)).

- Sioux Falls—May 10 —Maverick Aviation
- Brookings—May 10 —Brookings Regional Airport
- Aberdeen—May 11
- Chamberlain—May 11—Chamberlain Community Airport
- Rosebud—May 11—Rosebud Sioux Tribal Airport
- Pierre—May 12—Mustang Aviation
- Rapid City—May 12—Rapid City Regional Airport.

### The Flight Plan + Schedule



# 82ND CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER

Lt. Col. Allen Godsell assumed command of the South Dakota National Guard's 82nd Civil Support Team during a change of ceremony at Ellsworth Air Force Base, May 3. Godsell received command of the Rapid City-based unit from Lt. Col. David Sheets who commanded the unit since September 2020.

Sheets, who will retire from the SDNG with 26 years of military service, thanked the unit for their dedication to becoming the best.

The 82nd CST is the state's all-hazard response team capable of detecting chemical, biological, radiological and explosive materials. The unit responds to incidents of local, state and national significance and provides support to civilian authority and agencies such as local fire departments, police/sheriff departments, county emergency management offices and other agencies of the first-responder community.

Godsell's military career began in September 1991 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army as an electronics communications specialist. From 1991 to 1995, he served on active duty at Fort Carson, Colorado and in Waegwan, South Korea.

In October of 1998, he joined the South Dakota National Guard and retrained as an intelligence analyst for the 109th Engineer Battalion. At the same time, he enrolled at Black Hills State University majoring in social science with a minor in military science. He graduated in May of 2001 receiving his officer's commission as an engineer officer from ROTC.

After completing his Officer Basic Course training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he joined an already deployed 842nd Engineer Company in Bagdad, Iraq - serving as a platoon leader from 2003 to 2004.

Once his tour in Iraq was completed, Godsell, accepted a position with the SDNG working their Innovative Readiness Training program from 2004 until 2006. He was selected to serve as the state's first bilateral affairs officer putting together the SDNG's State Partnership Program with Suriname in South America, where he was stationed in country at the U.S. Embassy until 2009. After three years of working international relations, he returned home to take command of the 842nd Engineer Company and deployed as their commander to Afghanistan from 2011 to 2012.

Upon returning to the South Dakota, he transferred to the 196th RTI and took command of the Headquarters Detachment from 2012 to 2014. He then served in various administrative officer positions until being selected to as the SDNG adjutant general's executive officer in 2020.





# HUGHES COUNTY VSO AND SDDVA PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL OUTREACH EVENT

Hughes County Veterans Service Officer Janet Beck and Veterans Service Claims Assistant Sheila Carpenter, along with SDDVA Field Service Officer Kevin Swanson participated in the VFW Post 2038 Veteran Benefit Update Program April 21 in Pierre.

The trio updated veterans on changes occurring with the VA; Agent Orange, Gulf War, and Camp Lejeune Presumptives; Blue Water Navy; C&P Exams; VA Healthcare and travel reimbursement.



# AURORA/BRULE COUNTY VSO SPEAKS AT LOYALTY DAY

Aurora/Brule County Veterans Service Officer Ron Falor, spoke at the annual VFW Loyalty Day program in Plankinton this week.

After sharing his Loyalty Day message, he briefed veterans on compensation, pension and burial benefits and reminded them of the resources his office affords veterans and their families.



# RED WILK CONSTRUCTION TUFF HEDEMAN BULL BASH

The South Dakota State Fair welcomes the Red Wilk Construction Tuff Hedeman Bull Bash and ATV Big Air Tour sponsored by American Bank & Trust back to the Fair Grandstand this year.

The Red Wilk Construction Tuff Hedeman Bull Bash kicks off the 2022 South Dakota State Fair grandstand lineup with two nights of high energy fun on Channel Seeds Preview Day, Wednesday, August 31, and Thursday, September 1, the opening day of the State Fair in Huron.

Tuff Hedeman is known for lining up elite riders to face off with world-class bucking bulls. This professional, fast-paced bull riding competition returns to the South Dakota State Fair to feature pro bull riders and bullfighters matched to animals of superior strength and fiery spirit.

The Red Wilk Construction American Hero Award will be held during both nights of bull riding. Typically, 10 Veterans are honored each night. Since 2013, more than 300 Veterans from all over South Dakota have been honored.



## HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

Happy Mothers Day to the Warrior Moms, the Blue Star Moms, the Gold Star Moms, the mom's who wear two sets of shoes because their spouse is away defending our nation, and to all of the moms who support these moms. Happy Mothers Day!



HERE'S TO  
*Strong  
women.*  
MAY WE KNOW THEM.  
MAY WE BE THEM.  
MAY WE RAISE THEM.



# FAREWAY TO OFFER ROUND UP PROGRAM TO SUPPORT MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHTS

A local grocery store chain in the Midwest is helping send veterans to Washington D.C.

From Tuesday, May 2nd, through Saturday, May 14th, customers can round up their purchases at Fareway and Fareway will donate it to Midwest Honor Flight.

Every \$753 that is received will send one veteran out to Washington D.C. to see their memorials. For some, this is the first time they get to see a memorial set up in honor of a war that they fought in.

The cost to conduct an average Midwest Honor Flight trip out of Sioux Falls is now approximately \$150,000.

The following stores participating include: 014 Sergeant Bluff, 019 Sioux City, 022 Sioux City, 829 Sioux City, 912 Sioux Center, 719 Le Mars, 058 Orange City, 788 Spencer, 520 Cherokee, 021 Sheldon, 099 Worthington, 718 Harrisburg, and 164 Sioux Falls (S. Sycamore Ave Only).

**From May 2 - 14, "Round Up"  
your purchase and Fareway  
will donate it to  
Midwest Honor Flight!**

Midwest Honor Flight is a non-profit organization in Northwest Iowa, South Dakota, and Southwest Minnesota dedicated to providing Veterans with respect, honor, and closure with an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital. Learn more by visiting [midwesthonorflight.org](http://midwesthonorflight.org)



**MIDWEST  
HONOR FLIGHT**

**FAREWAY**  
MEAT & GROCERY



MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION •

*Appreciating You, Today & Everyday.*

*May 6, 2022*

# WADEL NAMED MJFSVH EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Samantha Wadel has been named the May employee of the month at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. Samantha is a CNA in the NASA Household and has been with the Department since April of 2021.

Samantha has a “can do” positive attitude and is very compassionate. She is reliable and is committed to getting things done no matter how long it takes. Her residents come first.

Thanks Samantha, for taking care of our heroes!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6—Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 8—Victory in Europe Day

May 8—Mother’s Day

May 10—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pennington County Conference Room in the Care Building in Rapid City—  
(321 Kansas City Street)—10:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)

May 11—SDDVA Mini Conference—American Legion Post 8 Cabin in Pierre—(520 S. Pierre Street)—10:00 am—2:00  
pm (CT)

May 12—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings City Library—Cooper Room—(513 3rd Street)—10:00 am—2:00 pm  
(CT)

May 14—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 9

May 14—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 9 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—  
Doors open at 7:30 pm and program at 9:00 pm (CT)

May 14-15—Ellsworth AFB Air Show

May 21—Armed Forces Day

May 30—Memorial Day Program—SD Veterans Cemetery—(25965 477th Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)

May 30—Memorial Day Program—Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home —(2500 Minnekahta Avenue)—Hot  
Springs—10:00 am (MT)

May 30—State Offices Closed



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 1—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 10  
Jun 1—Midwest Honor Flight—Mission 10 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—  
Doors open at 7:30 pm and program at 9:00 pm (CT)  
Jun 9-12—State VFW Convention—4-H Fairgrounds—(3200 W Havens Avenue)—Mitchell  
Jun 12—Midwest Honor Flight Annual Honor Ride—SD Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls  
Jun 14—Flag Day  
Jun 16-19—State American Legion Conference—Watertown  
Jun 18—Midwest Honor Flight 3rd Reunion—Sioux Falls Convention Center—11:00 am (CT)  
Jun 19—Father's Day  
Jun 25—Lake County Abate Poker Run for Midwest Honor Flight  
Jun 29-Jul 4—Parkston's Celebration of Freedom—City Park—Parkston  
Jul 4—Independence Day  
Jul 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)  
Jul 18-23—National Veterans Golden Age Games—Sioux Falls  
Aug 6-9—DAV National Convention—Orlando, FL  
Aug 14-19—Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention—Rapid City  
Aug 15-17—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School  
Aug 18-23—USS Iowa Veterans Association Reunion—Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center—Rapid City  
Aug 22—The Barrel House Day of Giving fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight—Sioux Falls  
Sep 1—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair  
Sep 1-5—South Dakota State Fair  
Sep 5—Labor Day  
Sep 10—Heroes Helping with Horsepower Military Appreciation Event—W. Main Street—Ethan—Festivities begin  
at 8:00 am (CT)  
Oct 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)  
Oct 10—Native American Day  
Oct 15—Midwest Honor Flight Fifth Annual Hangar Dance—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell  
Street)—Sioux Falls—7:00 pm (CT)  
Nov 5—We've Got Your Six Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—(1401 Lazelle Street)—  
Sturgis—11:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)  
Nov 11—Veterans Day  
Nov 24—Thanksgiving Day  
Dec 6—Governor's Budget Address  
Dec 17—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—  
11:00 am (CT)  
Dec 25—Christmas  
Jan 10—Governor's State of the State Address

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